

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EXPERTS

Terms of reference for on-site activities and missions

Action code and partner country: SOCIEUX 2022-09 UZBEKISTAN

Action title: *Improving and structuring social services in Uzbekistan*

Partner institution: National Agency for Social Protection

Activity number and title:

A. 2: Update on current state of social services in Uzbekistan and validation of previously proposed recommendations - DW

Date of implementation of activities:

Activity 2: 2-16 October 2023

Expert positions and responsibilities (by activity):

Expert 1: Social Services
Policy and strategy making and development ; Service delivery

Expert 2: Social Services; Rights of People with Disabilities
Service delivery

Workload:

Expert 1 : 6 days (remote)

Expert 2 : 5 days (remote)

Call for experts' reference: 22-09/UZB/2

Version - #: 2 ☒ Draft

☒ Final

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1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Country overview

Uzbekistan is a landlocked country located in Central Asia that borders the countries of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. It is the most populated country in Central Asia, 34,2 million people. Its capital and largest city is Tashkent (almost 2,7 million people). Other big cities are Namangan (almost 0,6 million people) and Samarkand (0,53 million people). The distribution between urban and rural population is 50/50.

Uzbekistan is a post-soviet country. It was governed by the first president Islam Karimov till his death in 2016. After the transition of power in 2016-2017, some liberalization reforms were conducted, and modernization of the state and public services has been engaged. After an initial phase of market liberalization, Uzbekistan is moving into a more complex phase of reforms of land, labor, capital markets, and state-owned enterprises, but also health and social services. The most significant medium-term challenge will be ensuring reform inclusivity and transparency. To mitigate the economic, social, and health consequences of the pandemic, the Government has been taking anti-crisis policy measures.

Uzbekistan is a lower middle-income economy (GNI per capita is 1 750 USD in 2020). It is an important producer of agricultural products (including cotton) and exporter of natural gas, oil uranium and gold. The informal sector is estimated at 45% of GDP, with almost as many people employed formally as in informal work. Unformal employment concerns above all agricultural sector (seasonal work) and services. The economy is also characterized by high inflation (14,7% in 2020). About 12% of the population live below national poverty line. HDI is 0.72 ranking Uzbekistan at the 106th position.

1.2 Sector situation

Uzbekistan has been undergoing a major socio-economic transformation since 2016. Social policy is an important priority for the government. The National Strategy for Social Protection 2021-2030 was approved in February 2021. It proclaims basic guarantees of social security and social assistance coverage of the population, which should be carried out taking into account good practices from abroad. The National Agency for Social Protection is the main State administration in Uzbekistan in charge of social assistance and social services, from policy formulation in this area to services provision to final beneficiaries. The agency directly responds to the President of Uzbekistan.

Three main categories of beneficiaries receiving social services from the Agency are persons with disabilities, older people living isolated and in institutions, and victims of human trafficking. The main services provided by the agency and its decentralized branches are medical rehabilitation, basic assistive technologies (limb prosthesis and wheelchairs), housing in institutions, health resort treatment. Service offer is however quite limited and the quality of services is considered poor by the Agency as well as by users. In the request to SOCIEUX+, the Agency identifies the following challenges, which refer to its specific mandate but also to the broader sector of social services and assistance:

- an insufficiently formed system of effective management of the provision of medical and social services to persons taken into state care in residential care homes ;
- low quality of disability prevention and medical and social rehabilitation services;
- problems in the state of infrastructure of medical and social institutions in terms of creating favorable conditions for the older people and persons with disabilities;
- the system of material incentives for workers in medical and social institutions needs to be improved;
- lack of organization on a systematic basis of spiritual, educational and cultural events in medical and social institutions;
- low level of quality of medical and social rehabilitation measures and psychological support for victims of human trafficking;

- dissatisfaction of persons with disabilities with the quality and system of prosthetic and orthopedic care.

Tackling these problems through improvement and modernization of services provided to entitled beneficiaries is one of the priorities of the Agency. A new (improved) offer of services should be formulated in the form of a "policy Concept" that would further be developed and translated into norms to be integrated into the national regulatory framework referring to the provision of social assistance and basic social services.

1.3 Role of partner institution in the sector

In recent months the public authority in charge of social services has undergone significant transformation in terms of its structure and mandate. Initial Partner Institution, Agency for development of medical and social services, after the administrative reform in Uzbekistan January-July 2023 was first merged with the Ministry of Employment and Poverty reduction, then became an autonomous National Agency for Social Protection under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This institution has a large portfolio in the field of social protection and its creation was fostered by international partners including World Bank and UNICEF that insisted on necessity of a public administration specialized in social protection.

Under the Decree of President dated June 1, 2023, the institutional mandate of the Agency according to the mentioned decree includes the following main functions and tasks in the areas of social protection in general, disability and older people (the agency covers also other areas like child and women protection):

I. In the area of development and implementation of a unified state policy and measures in the sphere of social protection of the population:

- Development and implementation of a unified state policy in the sphere of social protection of the population;
- Development of social assistance programmes to support persons and families in need of social protection;
- Development and monitoring of the implementation of standards for guaranteed social services;
- Organization of a professional "social work" service to work with various population groups;
- Development of measures to encourage the expansion of social partnership, further active involvement of the non-state sector and local communities in the provision of various types of services and support for vulnerable population groups;
- Ensuring the transparency of the social protection system and organising its processes in a form convenient for the population through digitalisation of the sphere.

II. Improving the system of work with persons with disabilities:

- Ensuring a gradual transition from the medical model to the social model of assessing and establishing disability;
- Providing persons with disabilities with high-quality prosthetic and orthopaedic devices and technical rehabilitation equipment;
- Developing the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and the rehabilitation sphere, as well as introducing modern technologies into the sphere;
- Control over the creation of conditions for social adaptation and integration in society, assistance in securing employment, coordination of inclusion and the formation of a favourable environment for persons with disabilities;
- Creating a favourable attitude in society towards persons in need of social protection, including persons with disabilities;
- Implementing measures to support the independent life activities of persons with disabilities and providing them with social services at home;
- Improving the activities of State special educational institutions for children with special educational needs and of the rehabilitation and prosthetics centre for persons with disabilities.

VII. In the area of work with older people:

- Organizing home care and support services;
- Establishment of a system of professional services on the basis of Sahowat residential homes and other institutions;

- Protection from violence.

2 ACTION DESCRIPTION

2.1 Overall objective

Access to employment and social protection is expanded to poor and vulnerable groups

2.2 Specific objective (s) (purpose)

S. 1: To contribute to introduction of modern approaches to social services provision in Uzbekistan

2.3 Expected results

R. 1: Good practices over structure, types, forms and mechanisms of provision of social services in the EU were presented

R. 2: Key steps and policy orientation documents to improve the quality of and the coverage by social services were developed

2.4 Final deliverables

D. 1: Assessment report social and medico-social services provided in Uzbekistan to PwDs and older people

D. 2: Webinar materials

D. 3: Study visit report (including identification and definition of services to be introduced in Uzbekistan)

D. 4: Concept note on the improvement and development of the system of social services provision to PwDs and older people in Uzbekistan (providing priorities and steps to introduce new social services)

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 General methodology (of the action)

The present action will support the Partner Institution to develop and improve social services provided in Uzbekistan to the statutory beneficiaries of the Agency, in particular persons with disabilities and the older people; development and improvement proposals shall in particular tackle the dimensions of types and forms, coverage, quality and accessibility of social assistance and basic social services provided by the Agency. It will help the Partner Institution to better fulfil its institutional mandate defined by the presidential decree of 01/06/2023 which is to develop and coordinate the introduction of new forms of social services to improve social protection of vulnerable groups.

The action first focused on the assessment of the existing services provided by the Agency to key eligible groups of population (primarily persons with disabilities and older people living isolated or in institutions). First activity was implemented in December 2022, an assessment reform was prepared, and it will be a basis for further cooperation. After the action being on-hold for several months because of administrative transformations in Uzbekistan, a second short activity has an objective to incorporate the outputs of Activity 1 and that the recent developments are taken into account into the deployment of the technical assistance and its deliverables. Then a detailed presentation of services provided to similar population groups in the EU is given to the Partner to give a good understanding of the practical organisation of these services, the human and material resources needed, the roles of stakeholders and the possibility of adaptation of the services to the local context in Uzbekistan. Finally, a policy paper, defined "policy Concept", for the development of social services in Uzbekistan will be jointly elaborated. It will include key steps and strategic directions for the improvement of the offer of social assistance and basic social services deployed by the Agency.

The technical assistance methodology will be detailed by the mobilized experts. Notwithstanding this experts' responsibility, the overall methodology shall be centred on the international standards and EU good practice in the field of social services.

3.2 Planned activities (work plan of the action)

The following activities are currently planned for the action:

- A. 1: Assessment of the infrastructure and resources for social and medico-social services provision in Uzbekistan to persons with disabilities and older people
- A. 2: Update on current state of social services in Uzbekistan and validation of previously proposed recommendations - DW
- A. 3: Study visit to learn practical organisation of social and medico-social services in an EU country for older people and persons with disabilities
- A. 4: Formulation of a Concept note on introduction of a modern offer of social services to persons with disabilities and older people in Uzbekistan

The present terms of reference cover the services expected for activities of the above work plan:

- Activity 2.

3.3 Inclusion of cross-cutting issues

SOCIEUX+ recognises the importance to include cross-cutting issues in social protection, labour and employment policies and systems. The following cross-cutting issues are duly taken into account:

- Gender equality;
- Good governance;
- Human rights (including rights of children, people living with disabilities, vulnerable groups and minorities); and,
- Social and economic inclusion of vulnerable groups.

4 ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION

4.1 Tasks

This brief activity is proposed to ensure better coherence and cohesiveness of technical assistance provided to the PI (National agency for social protection under the President of Uzbekistan) after some period when the action was on-hold and PI underwent a series of institutional transformation. The Partner itself has requested to undergo a series of online meetings in order to retrieve the suspended cooperation and ground the remaining activities on a solid understanding of the work done so far.

During this remote activity the experts will conduct a series of webinars (max 4) with the Partner institution in order to recall and confirm the conclusions of the first activity and engage into thematic preparation of the upcoming activities. In particular, the webinars will be focused on:

- Presentation of the results of the assessment of infrastructure and social services provided to persons with disabilities and older people in Uzbekistan (results of activity 1)
- Validation of the assessment report prepared in act 1
- General presentation of organisation of social services provision to persons with disabilities and older people in Romania
- Discussion with the PI staff members about thematical preferences and priorities for further cooperation (act 3 and 4).

Upon the request of the PI, a particular focus on older people may be considered.

Participation and/or briefing/debriefing with international development partners should be considered in this activity (primarily, UNDP, UNICEF, World Bank)

The team of two experts will be mobilized for this activity, including one expert to make a link with activity 1 and one expert to ensure continuity with activity 3.

The experts will deploy a peer-to-peer methodology involving the Partner Institution relevant staff and other stakeholders in technical consultations. The principal expert will lead the remote mission. He/she will be responsible for the production of the final deliverables of the activity. He/she will also be responsible for the preparation, coordination, implementation and reporting and/or coordination of the overall activity. A focal point from the Partner Institution will be appointed to closely work with the experts during the activity. Interpretation and translation of final documents are necessary for this activity; they will be provided by SOCIEUX+ within the limits indicated in the work plan below. This activity should take place at distance.

Tasks:

Minimum tasks expected from the experts shall include:

- Ahead of the remote mission to get substantial knowledge of the local context; review any relevant background documents provided by the SOCIEUX+ Team and/or the Partner.
- Take part to the pre-mission briefing with SOCIEUX+ team;
- Conduct preliminary contacts with the Partner in view of the preparation of the mission's methodology and agenda, to be transmitted ahead of the mission to the SOCIEUX+ team for approval;
- During the mission, to conduct consultations with the Partner's executives and staffs, as well as any other external actor that can support the positive deployment of the mission.
- To make themselves available for a remote meeting with the EU Delegation office in Tashkent;
- To present the outcomes of the mission to the partner in order to discuss and take into account comments on the contents of the deliverables before their finalization;
- At the end of the mission, timely submit to SOCIEUX+ of the final deliverables (10 working days after the mission), and be available to go through an eventual round of comments and adjustments in interaction with SOCIEUX+ and the Partner;
- To channel to SOCIEUX+ Communication officer any material that can be useful to inform the public about the activity (pictures, interviews, brief notes or articles)
- To employ the different templates and evaluation forms provided by the SOCIEUX+ team

4.2 Deliverables

4.2.1 Pre-mission deliverables (to be transmitted to SOCIEUX+ FMT at least three working days ahead of the activity):

- P1: A methodological note (max. 3 pages), detailing the working approach, tools and methods to employed, a risks analysis
- P2: A preliminary agenda (max. 2 pages), detailing the meetings and working sessions to be held

4.2.2 Final deliverables (to be transmitted to SOCIEUX+ FMT no later than ten days after the activity's completion):

- D2: Workshops materials, including presentation of the outcomes and recommendations of Activity 1 and presentation of the organization of social services in Romania;
- ExMR: An individual Expert Mission Report in SOCIEUX+ format (template provided). This report is a confidential product intended solely for and use by SOCIEUX+. The expert team may also submit a single-joint ExMR report if they prefer to do so (see instructions on the template).
- ExF: An individual completed Expert Feedback Form completed online (see instructions and link on the ExMR template).

- AcR: A collective Activity Report in SOCIEUX+ format (template provided). Short and synthetic.

5 REPORTING AND SUBMISSION OF DELIVERABLES

5.1 Formats

All deliverables and products of the activity (notes, reports, presentations, etc) shall comply with the formats and templates provided by the SOCIEUX+ Team.

All deliverables are to be submitted in electronic in electronic editable versions [Microsoft Word 97-2003 [doc], PowerPoint 97-2003 [ppt] and Excel 97-2003 [xls]; or in equivalent OpenDocument format). Non-editable electronic document such as in Portable Document Format (PDF) shall not be accepted.

Templates for electronic presentations during the activity/mission are provided by the SOCIEUX+ Team. These templates are in Microsoft PowerPoint format and comply with the SOCIEUX+ Corporate Image standards. These templates are to be used as a sole format by all members of the expert mission team. They are to be used for all presentations by the experts during and for the activity/mission. The use by the experts of their own, or their organisation(s), templates or formats are not allowed unless otherwise instructed in written [by email] to the experts by the SOCIEUX+ Team.

All versions of deliverables or other products used or produced during activity/mission by the experts shall include the following disclaimer:

"Disclaimer:

The responsibility of this publication sole lies with its authors. The European Union, the European Commission, the implementation partners of SOCIEUX+ and the SOCIEUX+ Staff are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein."

Please refer to the expert information package for further guidance on communication and templates.

All deliverables are to be provided in English or in Russian.

5.2 Submission and approval

All deliverables versions (drafts, final or other) shall be submitted directly and only to SOCIEUX+ Team, unless otherwise instructed in written [by email] to the experts by the SOCIEUX+ Team.

5.2.1 Pre-mission deliverables

- Pre-mission deliverables shall be submitted no later than 3 working days before the start of activity.
- Pre-mission deliverables will be shared and reviewed by the SOCIEUX+ and the Partner Institution. Feedback on the deliverables should be provided to the Principal Expert at latest 2 days before the start of activity or departure of the mission of the experts, whichever is the earliest. Comments and recommendation of this feedback shall be taken into account for the implementation of the activity/mission by the experts. Only the mission agenda shall be resubmitted with revision if requested by the SOCIEUX+ Team.

5.2.2 Final deliverables

- The first draft versions of the final deliverables are to be submitted no later than 10 working days upon completion of the activity or return of the experts.
- Feedback to the first draft version of the report should be provided 10 working days after its submission.
- Inclusion of the feedback on drafts versions is expected 5 working days upon reception of the comments by the principal expert. (In general, no more than one round of feedback and revision

is required, unless the quality of the deliverables is considered unsatisfactory by the SOCIEUX+ Team or/and the Partner Institution.)

- Final versions of the deliverables should be approved or rejected no later than 10 working days upon their submission to the SOCIEUX+ Team.
- Final payments and reimbursement of travel costs to experts can only be authorised upon approval of the final version of the deliverables by SOCIEUX+.

6 REQUIRED EXPERTISE

6.1 Expertise profile

Principal expert (Expert 1):

Area(s) of expertise: Social Services; Access to basic social services

Specific skill(s) of expertise: Policy and strategy making and development ; Service delivery

Requirements (essential/required):

- a) The education type and level required:

“Master’s” degree (or equivalent advanced academic degree or diploma requiring 4 years of formal education) in the areas of expertise (see above), or another directly related discipline. In its absence, the master’s degree can be replaced by a combination of academic degree(s) with relevant years of work/professional experience combining the area of expertise and specific skills requested:

- An intermediate academic degree (“Bachelor”, equivalent degree or diploma requiring three (3) years of formal education) with an additional three (3) years of working/professional experience; or,
- A first-level academic degree (“License”, equivalent degree or diploma requiring two (2) years of formal education) with an additional five (5) years of working/professional experience.

The additional work experience used in calculating academic equivalence shall not count towards the minimum general professional experience.

- b) The number of years of relevant work/professional experience within EU public administrations or academia combining the area(s) of expertise and demonstrated specific skill(s) & competence(s):

Seven (7) years.

- c) Required language knowledge: fluency in English, written and oral; working level of Russian language will be an additional asset;

N.B.: Translation and interpretation services may be commissioned by SOCIEUX+.

- d) Other essential qualification(s):

- Relevant experience in the area of organisation and provision of social services to EU to persons with disability and/or older people and other vulnerable groups;
- Experience of drafting policy documents and/or sectoral strategies;
- Acute sense of diplomacy and institutional relations.

Additional assets (advantageous in selection):

- Previous experience of technical assistance;
- Knowledge of Central Asia;
- Working level of Russian language;
- Computer fluency (Zoom, PowerPoint etc.) and good presentation skills.

Expert 2:

Area(s) of expertise: Social Services; Rights of People with Disabilities

Specific skill(s) of expertise: Service delivery

Requirements (essential/required):

- a) The education type and level required:

“Bachelor’s” degree (or equivalent academic degree or diploma requiring three (3) years of formal education) in the areas of expertise (see above), or another directly related discipline. In its absence, the bachelor’s degree can be replaced by a combination of:

- A first-level academic degree (“License” or equivalent) with an additional two (2) years of professional experience in one or more relevant fields.

The additional work experience used in calculating academic equivalence shall not count towards the minimum general professional experience.

- b) The number of years of relevant work/professional experience within EU public administrations or academia combining the area(s) of expertise and demonstrated specific skill(s) & competence(s):

Five (5) years.

- c) Required language knowledge: fluency in English, written and oral; working level of Russian language will be an additional asset;

N.B.: Translation and interpretation services may be commissioned by SOCIEUX+.

- d) Other essential qualification(s):

- Relevant experience in the area of organisation and provision of social services to different groups of vulnerable population;
- Good knowledge of social and medico-social services provided in the EU (Romania) to persons with disability and/or older people and other vulnerable groups;
- Acute sense of diplomacy and institutional relations.

Additional assets (advantageous in selection):

- Previous experience of technical assistance;
- Knowledge of Central Asia;
- Working level of Russian language;
- Computer fluency (Zoom, PowerPoint etc.) and good presentation skills.

6.2 Estimated workload

Activity 2

	Preparation	On-site work	Reporting & deliverables	Total
Principal expert (#1)	2	2	2	6
Expert (#2)	2	2	1	5
Total	4	4	3	11

7 APPLICATIONS

7.1 Call for experts

All calls for experts for SOCIEUX+ activities are published online on the SOCIEUX+ website. Interested experts should submit their application on the SOCIEUX+ on-line expert database: <https://pmt.socieux.eu> (currently only available in English). The application process is:

1. If they have not already, experts create their SOCIEUX+ account by clicking on “Create an account” using an email address.

2. Login details for their account will be sent to experts by email, experts should create and submit their profile for review by¹:
 - a. Providing contact details
 - b. Providing information on the competences, skills and working history of the expert. Experts are required to provide only limited information through fields marked with an asterisk. However, *experts are encouraged to complete in most detail de sections on skills and competences as the SOCIEUX+ Team also regularly reviews profiles in the roster to identify and contact potential experts for future missions.*
 - c. Uploading of a curriculum vitae, preferably in Europass format².
3. Once their profile is approved by the SOCIEUX+ Team, they can apply to any available calls for experts accessible under the tab “Call for experts” and click on “Apply.”

If more information is needed, please contact SOCIEUX+ by email at experts@socieux.eu with the reference number of the application.

Collaborative or interested institutions wishing to make expertise available for a specific call for application may directly contact the team of SOCIEUX+ at experts@socieux.eu.

7.2 Selection of experts

In principle, SOCIEUX+ mobilises experts from the public administrations and mandated bodies of EU member states, and practitioners working for social partners, including:

- Practitioners, civil servants and employees from publicly mandated bodies;
- Collaborators and employees of social partner institutions, such as trade unions and employer associations; and,
- Academic and research institutions.

Active public experts from collaborative institutions are given priority in the selection. Private consultants may also apply. Their application will be considered in case an appropriate public expert cannot be identified.

Only short-listed applicants may be contacted. The selection process may include interviews by phone or other communication means.

Interested candidates may download the **Guide for Experts and Collaborative Institutions** with detailed information on contracting with SOCIEUX+ at www.socieux.eu

7.3 Contracting of public experts

Public experts can be in active duty or retired. Retired employees from international specialised agencies or cooperation agencies can also be mobilised, without regard to their former employer's collaborating with SOCIEUX+ on a specific action. Retired experts are considered as public experts for all purposes, benefits, and financial compensation provided by SOCIEUX+.

Short-listed candidates may be required to provide the contact of employer or proof of their ability to be directly contracted under their status as civil servant or public employee.

7.4 Financial compensations

Contract officials or active-duty or retired employees are entitled to standard fixed allowances of 350 euros per working day worked. The fees of private consultants are negotiated according to their number of years of relevant expertise and the standard scale of SOCIEUX+.

Retired experts are assimilated to public employees for all intents and purposes, benefits and financial compensation provided by SOCIEUX+.

National regulations on remuneration and compensation of public employees and civil servants applies and may limit the payment of allowances by SOCIEUX+. The responsibility for compliance

¹SOCIEUX+ expert database and other management tools comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) -Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

²Europass templates for CVs are available here:
<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae/templates-instructions>

and verification lies with individual experts and their institutions of origin. The payment of income or other taxes is the sole responsibility of the mobilised experts and/or their organisations.

7.5 Travel costs

All travel expenses for the mobilised experts (public, private or international institutions) are covered by SOCIEUX in accordance with the **Guide for Experts and Collaborative institutions** with detailed information on contracting with SOCIEUX+ (version as on date of signature of the contract).

8 COMMUNICATION & VISIBILITY

SOCIEUX + can use its communication channels, such as the web, newsletter and other media, to share information about the implementation and results of the activities. For this, contributions of the experts mobilised are expected. The experts may be requested to provide such contributions in the field of communication as photographs, provide short texts, and interviews.

Short briefings, before and after the mission, with the Communication Officer of SOCIEUX+. These briefings will provide the opportunity to identify communication opportunities and strategies.

For specific activities, visibility products, such as brochures, USB sticks, notebooks and pens, can be made available to experts for on-site distribution.

9 CODE OF CONDUCT

The experts mobilised by SOCIEUX+ will provide technical assistance from the preparatory stages of each activity to the delivery of products. The SOCIEUX+ Team will assist experts to fulfil their assignments by supporting and advising on the preparation of background materials before meetings. The SOCIEUX+ team will collect feedback from partner institutions and relevant stakeholders to ensure that mission reports and recommendations are delivered to national authorities, the EU Delegations in the partner countries and EuropeAid.

The experts mobilised are not representing SOCIEUX+ or the EU. Technical opinions and recommendations expressed are their own. They shall not express negative opinions on the implementation of actions supported by SOCIEUX+ to third-parties. Nevertheless, they shall be aware of SOCIEUX+'s objectives and functioning, and promote its services at the best of their knowledge, whenever possible and feasible.

The experts shall perform their duties in the Partner Country in a way that is fully compliant with and respectful of the local institutions, policies and cultural behaviours. They shall particularly adopt a culturally-sensitive behaviour in their way to deal with the local counterparts.

10 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

11 ANNEXES

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ABOUT SOCIEUX+

The SOCIEUX+ Facility was established and funded by the EU through the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR). The Facility is co-funded by France, Spain, and Belgium. It is implemented by a partnership composed of Expertise France (the partnership lead), Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas (FIIAPP) from Spain, Belgian International Cooperation on Social Protection (BELINCOSOC), and the Belgian Development Agency (Enabel).

The Facility's general objective is to expand and improve access to better employment opportunities and inclusive Social Protection systems in Partner Countries. Its specific objective is to enhance Partner Countries' capacity to design, manage, and monitor inclusive, effective, and sustainable employment strategies and Social Protection systems through short-term, peer-to-peer technical assistance and knowledge development.

SOCIEUX+ recognises the impact of Social Protection and employment in reducing poverty and vulnerability. It supports the efforts of partner governments in promoting inclusive and sustainable Social Protection and employment systems. SOCIEUX+ also complements the efforts made through other EU initiatives.

The Facility is an expansion of SOCIEUX Social Protection EU Expertise in Development Cooperation, established in 2013.



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